GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1906
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2016
Air Connectivity to Hilly Regions
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide air connectivity in all hill States/ UTs of the country to provide cheap and affordable transport facility to the people of these regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) to (b): As per Summer Schedule (SS)-2016, scheduled domestic flights are available to/from 77 airports of the country, which include Hill states and Union Territories also. State wise air connectivity as per SS - 2016 is placed at Annexure I.

With repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian aviation was totally deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate. In this regard Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve better connectivity of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific placed depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of RDGs issued by Government.

(c): The Government has recently broadened the scope of RDG by including the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.